

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AND ADVANCEMENTS FOR DYSLEXIA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 26, 2015

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in support of H.R. 3033, the Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia—or READ—Act.

The READ Act directs the NSF to devote funding to support dyslexia research, and to look at that research with an eye to its practical application. This will include early identification and intervention for children with dyslexia, guidance and professional development for teachers on working with students with dyslexia, and the development of educational tools and curricula which aid those with dyslexia.

Mr. Speaker, dyslexia is the most common learning disability in America, with an estimated 1 in 6 individuals potentially suffering from some form of dyslexia. Unfortunately, many people go undiagnosed, or are diagnosed but do not have access to the resources or alternative learning methods that could help them. I remember how much effort it took just to get the school system to recognize that my son should get tested for dyslexia, not to mention getting him the interventions and tools that he needed in order to be a successful student.

We need to encourage the scientific research around dyslexia, especially as it relates to early identification and early intervention.

I encourage all of my fellow Members of Congress to support this bill.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL GUARDINO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Michael Guardino, head of Carmel High School's science department, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA. One would be hard-pressed to find a teacher more devoted to the art of education than Mr. Guardino.

A lifetime lover of knowledge, Mr. Guardino believes that every student deserves an uncompromised understanding of the fundamental sciences, creating a classroom atmosphere known both for its incredible rigor and rewards. Each morning, he arrives before the crack of dawn, preparing fascinating demos and labs to truly engage his students. Nobody can escape his notoriously difficult AP Chemistry course without a firm comprehension and appreciation for the chemical world, even if he has to blow stuff up—in the name of science—to get his students' attention. Every

day, his students are challenged in new ways to approach unfamiliar problems and create solutions based on scientific processes. Whether it is titration, qualitative analysis, spectrophotometry, or chromatography, he finds a way to make each laboratory experiment challenging and captivating.

Away from the classroom, Mr. Guardino demonstrates his passion for SCUBA by acting as a volunteer diver at the Monterey Bay Aquarium for over 30 years, teaching the ecology and chemistry of kelp forests from inside the aquarium's massive tanks. Granting his students an incredible opportunity, he arranged a tour of Ed Ricketts' lab, part of the inspiration for "Cannery Row". This allowed them to hear rich first-hand experiences of Steinbeck and "Doc" recounted by the 96-year-old Frank Wright.

Mr. Guardino cares deeply for each of his students, giving his best efforts to teach and expecting their best efforts to learn. Giving untold hours of his personal time, Mr. Guardino personally helped Ethan Miller—a student bedridden for months due to a severe illness—learn the massive amounts of chemistry covered during his absence from school. Coming to school over the weekends and even on Thanksgiving, he ensured that Ethan understood the material. His tireless work paid off: Ethan completed AP Chemistry with an A both semesters and scored highly on the AP exam, earning college credit.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the House joins me in thanking Mr. Guardino for his dedication to his profession and to his students.

40TH ANNUAL LABOR AND COMMUNITY AWARDS RECEPTION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate several of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens. The Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor American Federation of Labor—Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL—CIO) will be recognizing several individuals and organizations for their dedication and service during the 40th Annual Labor and Community Awards Reception, which will be held at Wicker Park in Highland, Indiana, on Wednesday, October 28, 2015. These individuals, in addition to all Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are the epitome of the ideal American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hard-working.

At this year's event, several individuals and organizations will receive special recognition. John T. Coli, International Brotherhood of Teamsters Joint Council 25, and Harvey Jackson, International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 142, are the recipients of the Service to Labor Award for their many years of service to

the labor movement and their outstanding dedication to their fellow union members. The Union Label Award will be presented to Jeff Manes, a freelance reporter and member of National Writers Union 1981 and United Auto Workers, for his unselfish devotion to the labor movement through its promotion in all areas: social, civic, educational, and political.

The National Association of Letter Carriers will be honored with the Community Services Award for its exemplary service to the community and to the enhancement of the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana. Elizabeth "Betty" Quinn, American Federation of Teachers Indiana, will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for her many years of labor activism and her commitment to her community. For the exceptional service she has provided to the people of Northwest Indiana, she is worthy of our admiration and respect. Dave Danko, President, United Steel Workers 7–1 (BP Refinery), is this year's recipient of the President's Award. Mr. Danko is being honored for enhancing the well-being of workers throughout Northwest Indiana through countless contributions to further the philosophy of the labor movement.

Harold Sitz, Ironworkers Local 1, Randy Palmateer, Business Manager, Northwest Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council, and Dan Murchek, President, Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor AFL—CIO, and President, Lake County Police Association Local 72, Lake County Federation of Police Local 12, will be presented with the George Meany Award for their significant contributions to the youth of their communities through their involvement with the Boy Scouts of America.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These honorees are all outstanding examples of these qualities. They have demonstrated their loyalty to their unions and the Northwest Indiana community through their hard work and tireless service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and exemplary citizens, as well as all of the hardworking union men and women throughout America. They have shown commitment and courage toward their pursuits, and I am proud to represent them in Washington, D.C.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF LT. GEORGE WHITMORE

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a courageous American and a proud son of Tennessee, Lt. George Whitmore.

George Whitmore, of Shelbyville, Tennessee, enlisted in the Army on September 10, 1935 when he was sixteen years old, two

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

years before he was eligible under Army enlistment rules. On May 6, 1937, Whitmore was promoted to Corporal and later to Sergeant. For the next few years he served in the National Guard and until February 24, 1941, when he was called up to Active Federal Service.

After completing Officer Candidacy School in Ft. Benning, GA, Whitmore was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and entered the Army Ranger Combat Training program. After completing Ranger Training, Lt. Whitmore took part in the invasion of Normandy, where he bravely fought on Utah Beach.

He served on the front lines of Europe bravely defending his country, leading platoons of soldiers throughout the Normandy and Rhineland campaigns. On July 15, 1944, Lt. Whitmore was wounded in combat by an enemy artillery shell in northern France while pressing an attack against the German front.

During his 18 years of service to our country Lt. Whitmore received several service honors, including the Purple Heart Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge and two Bronze Service Stars, among many others.

In August of 2008, Lt. Whitmore returned to Tennessee to make his home in Normandy, TN, where he resided with his wife of 74 years, and his youngest daughter and son-in-law until his passing on October 9, 2015, at the age of 96.

To the family of Lt. Whitmore, we are sincerely grateful for his service. George truly exemplified the spirit of "the Greatest Generation."

H.R. 3762, GOP RECONCILIATION ACT

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on October 23, 2015, I was unable to be here to vote on H.R. 3762 (Roll Call 568), the GOP Reconciliation Act. Had I been present, I would have voted no on H.R. 3762. I have voted against this bill twice, once in the Energy & Commerce Committee and again in the Budget Committee. I was unable to make the vote because I was back in my district to attend a meeting with Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, parents, students and teachers to work directly on a huge challenge of improving schools in that community that are failing our children.

Below are the statements I made during the Energy & Commerce Committee and Budget Committee markups of H.R. 3762.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

"This is creating great economic uncertainty. Back home, I represent a district with an Air Force base that is home to U.S. Central Command and Special Operations Command. They are beside themselves about the inability of the Congress to move forward with a reasonable budget plan. It is now complicating the military missions of our country. They don't want another CR. That is a dead end. They don't want an OCO gimmick that doesn't serve our country well. They want those monies in the base defense budget, and have spoken out loudly.

And then on the domestic side our medical researchers, transportation, infrastructure,

all of those important jobs that help lift America are also being undercut by the uncertainty created here in the Congress.

Now, I am very happy this is being done in an open setting today, because it really lays bare the priorities of the two parties here in Congress. The Democratic priority is to address the budget uncertainty, come together, work out a plan to move forward and avoid the government shutdown. The Republican priority, however, is to continue to attack women's health care and intimidate Planned Parenthood nonprofit clinics and the women that go there for their health services. This witch hunt continues, and it is not serving the interests of our great country. It is beneath the dignity of this Congress, because what is going to happen when we come back after next week? There is a new Benghazi-like select committee to continue this witch hunt.

I mean, this is really an all-time low. There has been an attack on women's health now for decades, but now the all-time low is what happened this summer with these manufactured YouTube videos now becoming the basis of public policy in America while all the investigations done here in the Congress and in States across the country have demonstrated no wrongdoing whatsoever. So we are going to waste taxpayer funds and important time on this witch hunt? I think it is very unfortunate.

You know, the approval ratings of Congress are at an all-time low, and I have to say, this demonstrates why that is, because it is Congress and the governing—so called governing party, is not focused on the priorities for our great country, instead, focused on intimidating women and trusted clinics across the country. I urge a no vote on this and the reconciliation package. Thank you."

ENERGY & COMMERCE COMMITTEE

"Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I have to say, the Republican majority has really taken us back in a time warp today. It feels like we are probably back in the 1950s. The first half of the hearing was on energy policy, was very anti-science. It was practically the world is flat. They refused to address the changing climate, and the challenges that poses for our country and our communities, refused to modernize America's energy policy by unleashing innovation to benefit consumers and businesses all across America. But now the GOP majority wants to restrict contraceptives, and family planning services. This is decades old in—and it is another unconscionable attack on women's health and Planned Parenthood.

And I wanted to pose a question, which is doing more today in America to reduce the number of unplanned pregnancies. Certainly not the Republicans in Congress, who continue to vote to block access to contraceptives, and family planning, as they are No, it is Planned Parenthood that is doing more to reduce the number of unplanned pregnancies in America.

Now, although the GOP attacks on women's health have gone on for years here in the Congress, we recently hit a new low this summer, when a shady group, that is actually under criminal investigation, helped launch a broad-based smear campaign against Planned Parenthood. To date, all of the investigations that have been launched have turned up there is no evidence to substantiate the allegations that Planned Parenthood, or any of its affiliates, violated the law, including an investigation by this very Committee.

Actually, what the evidence has turned up so far is that Mr. Dunliden, and his organization that doctored the YouTube videos, misrepresented itself to gain access to medical conferences and Planned Parenthood facili-

ties. They should be the ones that are under investigation and brought to account. The investigations out there so far have showed that the videos are selectively edited, they repeatedly omit exculpatory statements about compliance with the law. We simply cannot allow Republicans in Congress to use these falsified videos to continue their extremist agenda against women and deny women access to comprehensive healthcare.

You know, this is the House of Representatives, and the population of the United States of America is a little more female, about 50—a little over 50 percent. But here in the Congress, you all know what the percentage is. It is under 20 percent female. Well, it certainly shows. I will urge my colleagues to defeat this attempt, again, to paint another chapter in the radical agenda against women's health. . . . I hope you have read the legislation that will be considered today, because what it will do is eliminate access to contraceptives and family planning. If my Republican colleagues truly believe that there should be family planning services, and contraceptives allowed to women and families across America, they should vote no on this radical idea, and this idea of reconciliation today. I will yield back the balance of my time."

Again, if I was present for the vote today on H.R. 3762, I would have voted no.

THE GLOBAL CRISIS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the world is experiencing a crisis of international religious freedom that poses a direct challenge to U.S. interests in the Middle East, Central and East Asia, Russia, China, and sub-Saharan Africa. In large parts of the world, this fundamental freedom is constantly and brutally under siege. The worldwide erosion of respect for this fundamental freedom is the cause of widespread human suffering, grave injustices, refugee flows, and significant threats to peace and stability.

This Congress has heard the cries of Iraqi and Syrian Christians who face the threat of extinction, slavery, and death. We have heard about the plight of Rohingya Muslims, who face attacks and such unimaginable discrimination from hard-line Buddhist groups that many chose slavery elsewhere than life in Burma. We have heard about the persecution faced by Chinese Christians, Tibetan Buddhists, Uyghur Muslims, and Falun Gong at the hands of a Communist Party suspicious of organized religion. And, many of us on this subcommittee have seen firsthand the religious dividing lines in sub-Saharan Africa that are the cause of so much death and destruction.

In a world where some people are willing to kill those whose beliefs differ from theirs, where anti-Semitism persists even in the most tolerant of places, and where authoritarian governments view strong religious faith as a potential threat to their legitimacy, it is more important than ever that the U.S. engage in robust religious freedom diplomacy. One that uses all the tools available is the landmark International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

The stakes are too high and the suffering too great to downplay religious freedom as a

priority of U.S. foreign policy. But unfortunately, we often hear from religious groups globally and from NGOs working on the issue that this Administration has sidelined the promotion of religious freedom.

This criticism does not discount the work done by our men and women at the State Department and the efforts of Ambassador Saperstein himself. They do important and substantive work, but it seems too often that the issue is marginalized and isolated from issues of national security or economic development—even though we know from academic research that countries with the highest levels of religious freedom experience more prosperity and less terrorism.

Religious persecution has catastrophic consequences for religious communities and for individual victims. But it also undermines the national security of the United States. Without religious freedom, aspiring democracies will continue to face instability. Sustained economic growth will be more difficult to achieve. Obstructions will remain to the advancement of the rights of women and girls. And, perhaps most urgent of all, religious terrorism will continue to be nourished and exported.

The global religious freedom crisis will not disappear anytime soon. According to the non-partisan Pew Research Center, 75% of the world's populations live in countries where severe religious persecution occurs regularly.

It has been almost 17 years since the passage of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. Religious freedom diplomacy has developed under three administrations of both parties. Unfortunately, the grim global realities demonstrate that our nation has had little effect on the rise of persecution and the decline of religious freedom.

It is worth asking why.

It is worth asking not only what the State Department is doing, but what can be done better? Are new tools or new ideas needed to help U.S. religious freedom diplomacy address one of the great crises of the 21st century? Does the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 need to be upgraded to reflect 21st century realities?

That is why I introduced the Frank Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of 2015 (H.R. 1150). This legislation, named after the author of the original IRFA Act, my good friend former Congressman Frank Wolf, would, among other things, strengthen the role of the Ambassador-at-Large for Religious Freedom and the IRF office at State and give more tools to the Administration to address the crisis we face. The bill is roundly endorsed and supported by a broad, diverse array of religious freedom, civil society and diaspora organizations. They acknowledge what too many policymakers and administrations, Republican and Democrat alike, have been unable to appreciate—America's first freedom ought to be infused, at every possible level, into our foreign policy.

Upgrading and strengthening U.S. international religious freedom policy—and further integrating it into U.S. foreign policy and national security strategy—will send the clear message that the U.S. will fight for the inherent dignity of every human being and against the global problem of persecution, religious extremism, and terrorism. In so doing, we can advance the best of our values while protecting vital national interests.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN M. FAMULARO

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a very special man, John M. Famularo of Lexington, Kentucky. Famularo spent most of his life in the legal profession and over the years earned a stellar reputation among his fellow attorneys and all that knew him.

Famularo was raised in Mt. Olivet, Kentucky. He came from a family of legal minds, with his father serving as county attorney, district judge, and circuit judge and his brother serving as U.S. Attorney. Famularo graduated from Loyola University and the University of Kentucky College of Law. Two years after graduation from law school, he successfully argued a boundary dispute case before the U.S. Supreme Court. He began serving as an assistant commonwealth attorney for Fayette County in the 1970s. Much of his career was spent as a partner with the Stites and Harbison law firm in Lexington, where his practice focused on product liability, class-action defense, and medical malpractice defense. He also served as Chief Judge of the 22nd Judicial District in Fayette County. Famularo was well respected for his great legal mind.

Mr. Famularo was special to me personally. As a young lawyer, he was my first mentor. Many attorneys, including me, owe our success to the selfless interest he took in our professional development. He was a great lawyer, a fierce advocate for his clients, a dedicated officer of the court, and the best litigator I have ever seen.

Mr. Famularo became a regent and state chairman of the American College of Trial Lawyers, served on the board of governors of the Kentucky Bar Association, and was inducted into the University of Kentucky College of Law Hall of Fame. He passed away on October 23, 2015. He is survived by his wife Karen, three children, and three grandchildren. The legal community and all those associated with John M. Famularo mourn his passing and honor his legacy.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR HISPANICS

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 25th Anniversary of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. Since 1990, the initiative has played a critical role in advocating for and advancing policies that have helped our community grow.

While our work is not done, as we conclude Hispanic Heritage Month, it is important for us to celebrate our progress. Our nation's high school graduation rate is the highest in history, and the Latino dropout rate is half of what it was in 2000.

More importantly, however, we must recognize the work that remains and those committed to doing it. Earlier this year, the Department of Education issued a national call for commitments to action for Hispanics in education. The initiative aimed to encourage private, public and nonprofit investments to create and/or expand high quality educational services. The results were astounding; 150 Commitments to Action with a collective investment of over \$335 million.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the commitment of an organization in my district, the Mariachi Music Education Initiative, who has committed nearly \$900,000 over three years for music education.

It's commitments like this, and those of the other 149 organizations that will help our community prosper. Together, through the work and contributions of public, private and nonprofit organizations, we will continue working to close the achievement gap, and ensure every child in America has the tools and opportunity they need to succeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK TAKAI

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 26, 2015, I was absent from the House to attend to a personal health matter. Due to my absence, I am not recorded on any legislative measures for the day. I would like to reflect how I would have voted had I been present for legislative business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 569, providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 597) to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.

BOKO HARAM AND THE CHIBOK SCHOOLGIRLS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the world was shocked as 276 schoolgirls from the northeastern Nigerian town of Chibok were kidnapped by the Islamic militant group Boko Haram. In the days following this event, we learned that the military had four hours' warning of the attack, but failed to mobilize sufficient forces to fight off the attackers, who arrived at this predominantly Christian town in a convoy of vehicles. A military redeployment to find the girls two weeks later resulted in the massacre of at least 300 residents of the town of Gamboru Ngala.

Since that time, the previous Nigerian Government made many announcements about freeing the kidnapped girls, none of which proved to be accurate. Hope had been raised last October by a government announcement of a cease-fire and release of the girls only to be dashed by increasing Boko Haram attacks and the continued captivity of the Chibok girls. In fact, Boko Haram kidnapped more girls in northeastern Nigeria, especially Christian girls.

President Muhamadu Buhari has said he won't make promises about freeing these captives that he can't guarantee, but I expect he will make every effort to free the Chibok girls, as well as the many others taken by Boko Haram.

I have met previously with young women who have escaped from Boko Haram, in Jos and Abuja, Nigeria, and here in the United States. They confirm the abuse of their sisters and mourn their loss as we do. I want to thank Emmanuel Ogebe for all his help in arranging these meetings and the programs allowing some of these young women to come to the United States for an education. An estimated 10,000 other Nigerian youth are prevented from being educated because of disruptions caused by Boko Haram.

My subcommittee has held several hearings on Boko Haram and convinced the administration to declare Boko Haram a Foreign Terrorist Organization, which they announced at our November 13, 2013, hearing.

I have since pressed the administration to use authorities under the FTO designation to investigate and identify for the Nigerian Government those who support Boko Haram. I also have worked to end the current roadblocks preventing U.S. counterterrorism training for Nigerian troops.

During the past year, social media worldwide has exploded with the "Bring Back Our Girls" campaign. I must compliment my colleague, Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON, who has maintained her efforts to free the Chibok girls and all the others kidnapped by Boko Haram, while others have moved on to different issues.

I have worked with Congresswoman WILSON to update her House Resolution 147, which focuses on bringing to an end the violence unleashed by Boko Haram and bringing material aid to those harmed by their attacks. We also have joined in this legislation to press initiatives I mentioned earlier. I hope my subcommittee and our committee can move this legislation to the floor soon to give a boost to U.S. efforts to help Nigeria end the reign of terror by Boko Haram.

RECOGNIZING BROWNSTOWN ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, many Hoosier small businesses across my district power the economic engine of the state, while also playing a critical role in the civic life of their communities. Today it is my honor to highlight one such small business. Brownstown Electric Supply Company, based in Brownstown Indiana, is a privately owned electrical supply company that has provided utility companies with technical expertise and electrical supplies for over four decades.

Carl Shake founded Brownstown Electric Supply Company in 1970 after a long career in the electrical supply and utility service industry. Brownstown Electric has grown from a small business in Jackson County, Indiana to a regional company that has expanded its reach as far as Illinois, Kentucky, and Ohio. Brownstown Electric is now run by Carl's son

in law, Greg Deck, who stewards the company with the same principles that have made Brownstown Electric a staple of Southern Indiana.

In addition to supplying electrical equipment and providing expertise in the field, Brownstown Electric is an active member of the local community. They sponsor local high school sports teams, participate in the Brownstown High School school-to-work program, and contribute to the Jackson County History Center of Indiana. Brownstown Electric also encourages their employees to get involved and volunteer in the community. This heart for service is exemplified in their organization of the Zach Pickard Pelican Run. The community-wide event is a 5K run/walk event dedicated to raising money to find a cure for Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome. Employees of Brownstown Electric organized the fundraiser in honor of an employee's son who lives with the genetic condition.

Brownstown Electric Supply Company is emblematic of the Hoosier ethic. They are family-owned and operated, deliver quality products and service, and possess a strong commitment to improving the lives in the community.

It is an honor to represent a business like Brownstown Electric. I hope their exemplary business ethic serves to inspire other would-be entrepreneurs, and I am pleased to highlight their good work today in this installment of Indiana's 9th District Small Business Spotlight.

CONGRATULATING SHARON CONATSER

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sharon Conatser on being elected national president of the American Legion Auxiliary earlier this year. The American Legion Auxiliary is the nation's largest women's patriotic service organization, led by the national president who promotes the organization's mission advocating for veterans, educating citizens, mentoring youth, and promoting patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security.

Mrs. Conatser grew up in Central Illinois and has been a lifetime member of the American Legion family. She first became involved through her father, a WWII and Korean War veteran. Her husband also served as the national commander of the American Legion, making her the first national president who was also a First Lady of the American Legion.

Mrs. Conatser is retired from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she worked for 25 years. She has held numerous leadership positions with the American Legion Auxiliary, and remains active in her church and her community, serving as an inspiring example of a dedicated public servant. I am proud of Mrs. Conatser's accomplishments and it is an honor to represent her in the 13th District of Illinois.

Mrs. Conatser will be a strong national leader for the American Legion Auxiliary and I wish her the best in serving our country's veterans, active duty military, their families, and their communities.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DAVID DOWNEY

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a special man, David Downey, of Bourbon County, Kentucky. Mr. Downey, a part of the Greatest Generation, answered the call to serve during World War II and had a long military career. Today it is my honor to recognize him before the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. Downey was born in Bourbon County and graduated from Western High School. He was drafted into the United States Navy in 1944 and began his career in boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois. He left the Navy after a year and a half of service, and quickly decided to return in 1946. He remained in the Navy until 1968. Mr. Downey served on a transport ship during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He also served on destroyers and served as a cook. During his service in Vietnam, he was honored to meet Roger Staubach, a Naval Academy graduate and Heisman trophy winner.

Following his retirement from the Navy in 1968, he returned home to Kentucky. He worked various jobs before taking a position as a bus driver for the Paris Independent School system. He spent the next twenty two years driving schoolchildren in Bourbon County.

Mr. Downey is an active member of the Seventh Street Christian Church where he serves as a deacon and sings in the Chariots of Fire choir. He loves to bowl and is an active member of a league. Downey and his late wife Nannette, were married for fifty three years. He has two girls and a boy.

The bravery of Mr. Downey and his fellow men and women of the United States Navy is heroic. Because of his courage and the courage of individuals from all across Kentucky and our great nation, our freedoms have been preserved for our generation and for future generations. He is truly an outstanding American, a patriot, and a hero to us all.

RECOGNIZING JEFF HUNT

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jeff Hunt on being selected to serve as the new leader of Colorado Christian University's Centennial Institute. I commend his hard work and dedication to the community. Mr. Hunt's impressive career in public service has enriched the lives of so many.

Mr. Hunt's work in the public and private sector, coupled with his principled values, has proven to be invaluable. I am confident that his great spiritual and intellectual strength will make him an exceptional Director at the Centennial Institute.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes as he takes on this well-deserved position. It is truly an honor to celebrate his many accomplishments. Mr. Hunt's dedication to public service

and the religious community represents the essence of the Centennial Institute's mission.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Jeff Hunt for his service.

RECOGNIZING MANN PLUMBING/
MPI SOLAR

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, my home state of Indiana is a place where hard-work and innovation are rewarded. The spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation is a long held tradition of Indiana, and the work of Mann Plumbing is evidence that such tradition is alive and well. Today I am honored to highlight their small business and recognize their good work.

Mann Plumbing/MPI Solar is a full service plumbing and solar energy equipment company located in Bloomington, Indiana. The business was started by David Mann and originally began as a full service plumbing company in 1992. During the 2008 economic downturn the company embraced the situation as an opportunity to expand their business and product offerings into a new market. To do so they began offering solar products to customers. Mann Plumbing/MPI Solar is now a regional leader in this industry. Their big risk turned into a success story.

Mann Plumbing/MPI Solar provides their services to countless Indiana businesses, including: apartment houses, businesses, schools, and the Monroe County Government Building.

Mann Plumbing/MPI Solar's transition from a traditional plumbing shop to a full service plumbing and solar company during difficult economic times serves as a model for other businesses. David Mann and his team revitalized their business with new services and products that helped shepherd Mann Plumbing through a difficult economic period, and allowed them to expand and thrive.

Today, Mann Plumbing/MPI Solar offers a wide variety of products and services to their customers. Mann Plumbing/MPI Solar's success is possible in part, because of highly-trained and dedicated staff. Skilled, motivated workers form the backbone of the Hoosier workforce and remain the key to widespread, economic prosperity.

I am proud to represent Mann Plumbing/MPI Solar and hope their willingness to take risk and ability to adapt serves to inspire others. I am pleased to highlight their good work today in this installment of Indiana's 9th Congressional District Small Business Spotlight.

HONORING RUTH FRIENDLY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true leader in the Riverdale community, Ruth Friendly, who has been actively involved in several different neighborhood organizations for many years.

A former school teacher, Ruth was extensively involved in the curriculum development for the Scarsdale public school system before leaving the classroom in 1981 to join her husband, Fred Friendly, to work in media. Ruth served as a researcher, editor, producer, and executive producer for many landmark PBS series, and was an integral part of a team that received countless awards, including several for the series *The Constitution: That Delicate Balance*.

Ruth also produced over 200 non-televized programs for civic, legal, business, and educational organizations, often moderated by Fred. For 16 years, she served as Vice President and Senior Editorial Director at Fred Friendly Seminars.

Yet, in spite of her busy schedule, Ruth always found time to help the community. For the past eight years, she has been an active Board Member of Riverdale Neighborhood House. Ruth has also served on the Riverdale Senior Services Board, the Riverdale Mental Health Board, and the Fieldston Property Owners Association. She has also been active in the New York State court system, where she currently serves as Commissioner of the New York State Commission on Judicial Nomination, Court of Appeals, and as a panel member for the Disciplinary Committee of the Appellate Division, New York Supreme Court.

This year, Riverdale Neighborhood House is honoring Ruth at their 2015 Annual Benefit. I want to congratulate Ruth on this honor and thank her for her years of dedicated service to the community.

HONORING ROBERT T. GRAND

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Robert T. Grand, who turns 60 this year.

A graduate of Wabash College and IU McKinney School of law, Bob has committed his adult life to public service.

Bob has been a tremendous advocate for Hoosiers through his work with former Indiana Gov. Bob Orr, Senator Dick Lugar, President Bush, Governor Mike Pence, and Senator DAN COATS and his efforts working for common-sense public policy, especially in areas of government regulation.

In fact, the 2016 edition of Best Lawyers in America, named Bob as "Lawyer of the Year" for his work in government relations practice and municipal law.

Bob, congrats on six decades of success and here's to many more years of health and happiness.

HONORING CHANCELLOR LARRY
NEIL VANDERHOEF

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Larry Neil Vanderhoef, a long-serving Chancellor at the University of Cali-

fornia, Davis. On October 15, Larry passed away at age 74. I was fortunate to call him my friend, and he will truly be missed.

Chancellor Vanderhoef grew up from adversity and humble beginnings to be an incredible leader. He was raised in a small factory town in Wisconsin, and became the first in his family to finish high school and one of the few in his small town to go to college. He received his BA and MS in Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and he later pursued and received his Ph.D in Plant Biochemistry from Purdue University.

The Chancellor was a true visionary and academic diplomat, not just for the University of Davis but also for the wider Davis community. His extraordinary dedication is best described by the legacy he leaves behind. He devoted more than a quarter-century of his life to UC Davis, first as Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor from 1984 to 1994, and then as Chancellor for fifteen years after that—finally retiring in 2009. He was an academic servant who had a vision for UC Davis, and today the campus is one of the top leading research universities in the nation.

Throughout his life, Chancellor Vanderhoef was a tireless advocate for higher education whose passion and dedication transformed UC Davis. Almost every aspect of the university was impacted by his efforts to improve the education system, including the university's national rankings, student population, faculty, and research initiatives and facilities. Under Chancellor Vanderhoef's leadership, student enrollment grew from 22,000 to more than 30,000, the faculty increased by 44%, classroom, lab, and office space expanded by 6 million square feet, and the National Science Foundation ranked UC Davis in the top 10 in the nation for research funding among other public universities.

He was a visionary leader who made great strides toward bettering not only the university, but also the community of Davis. He held a strong passion for music and the arts, and advocated for the construction of what is now the Shrem Museum of Art. His promise to build a world-class performing arts center was realized in 2002 when doors opened to the Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, placing the university on the world stage. The performing arts center also serves as a beautiful new south entrance to the campus, making it more accessible to the public.

During his tenure as Chancellor, UC Davis was admitted into the Association of American Universities, a prestigious organization with only 62 members in the United States and Canada. Chancellor Vanderhoef's support of the sciences and medical research was reflected in his many initiatives on campus such as the creation of the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science. He also transformed the Sacramento County Hospital into what is known today as the highly renowned UC Davis Health System, providing patients with the highest of quality care. The health system includes the UC Davis Medical Center, UC Davis School of Medicine, The Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, and the UC Davis Medical Group. Not only does the UC Davis Health System conduct innovative research, but it stimulates Sacramento's economy by creating more than 20,000 jobs and generating \$3.4 billion annually in economic output.

In addition to the arts and sciences, Chancellor Vanderhoef was a firm believer in the

power of academic diplomacy. While at UC Davis, he promoted study abroad programs and the importance of international engagement in the Middle East. He believed that being exposed to new cultures and new ways of thinking can foster dialogue and greater understanding. Currently, students are able to participate in numerous study abroad programs such as the UC Davis Quarter Abroad or Summer Program, a Seminar Abroad Program, or even hold an internship abroad. Today, the Larry N. Vanderhoef Scholarship for Study Abroad, named for his legacy, continues to make these unforgettable opportunities open to Davis students.

Due to his many accomplishments in the Davis community, Chancellor Vanderhoef was granted numerous awards for his dedication and commitment to higher education. The Chancellor was named Sacramento of the Year in 2004 by the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and in 2006, he was presented with the Northern California International Leadership Award and was elected as an honorary member of the World Innovation Foundation.

I am deeply honored to have known Chancellor Larry Neil Vanderhoef and to pay tribute to a great visionary who dedicated his life to public service and to the people of Davis. There is little doubt that Chancellor Vanderhoef's presence was felt throughout the entire community. He left a remarkable legacy, which will not soon be forgotten. It is my sincere hope that the students and faculty at UC Davis will embody the Chancellor's spirit and continue to carry his legacy with them throughout their lives. It is leaders like Chancellor Vanderhoef who inspire change and make the most impact on those around them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent from the House on October 23, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on H.R. 3762 (Roll Call 568). I would like the record to accurately reflect my stance on this issue.

HONORING PORTUGUESE-AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER 85TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the city of Yonkers has been privileged for 85 years to be graced with strong community commitment from the Portuguese-American Community Center. With gratitude, it is an honor to congratulate them on their anniversary.

The Center was inaugurated on October 5, 1930 under the name "Clube Social Portugues." Originally, the "Centro Social Portuguese-American Citizens & Yonkers Portuguese American Club", the PACC dignified the lives of Portuguese immigrant families

throughout Yonkers, weaving families into a strong community. On the 30th Anniversary of its founding, the Center settled on "Portuguese American Community Center, Inc."

Early in the club's existence, under the presidency of the Ambassador of Portugal, Dr. Joao Bianchi, a language school called "Escola Joao de Deus" was opened to help the local children.

After decades of success, in 2012 "Escola Joao de Deus" joined the "Instituto de Cames," an entity of the Portuguese Government, which oversees the teaching of Portuguese abroad. To this day, the school plays a huge role in the Portuguese-American Community Center's role in the neighborhood.

Faithful to its founding principles, the Center continues its independent streak of focus towards the community rather than towards political organizations or religious sects. It also keeps the youth physically active by having a soccer team department, "Portuguese Stars," with over 65 children enrolled.

On October 3rd, the Portuguese-American Community Center will be hosting its 85th Anniversary Gala-Diamond Jubilee. I congratulate them on the occasion and wish them another 85 years of great success in Yonkers.

INTRODUCTION OF BANNING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES ON AIRPLANES ACT OF 2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Banning the Use of Electronic Cigarettes on Airplanes Act of 2015. The bill prohibits the use of electronic cigarettes and vaping devices on commercial airplanes by including use of these devices within the definition of smoking. Smoking tobacco products on commercial airplanes has been banned for years, but with the increase in use of electronic cigarettes and vaping devices in their place, it is necessary to update our laws to reflect this new nuisance and health risk on airplanes. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in 2011 ban the use of these devices, but four years later, no progress has been made. Therefore, Congress should step in to legislatively resolve the issue.

Electronic cigarette use has increased over the last decade with the increased education of the general public about the dangers and public health threats caused by traditional cigarettes to smokers and nonsmokers alike. For example, between 2010 and 2011, e-cigarette use among adults doubled. Researchers and public health experts have voiced concerns over the use of electronic cigarettes because there are still so many unknowns about the chemicals these devices can produce. The American Lung Association (ALA) has cited many concerns about the lack of regulation of e-cigarettes because they are on the market while the potential harm from secondhand e-cigarette emissions is unknown. ALA has identified two studies that show formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, benzene, tobacco-specific nitrosamines, and other harmful irritants coming from e-cigarette emissions. In addition, the

temperature of an e-cigarette can affect how many harmful the chemicals are, but with no configuration standards, it is too difficult to uniformly assess the health effects of smoking e-cigarettes. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a proposed rule in 2014 that would extend new regulatory authority to e-cigarettes by subjecting e-cigarettes to registration and product listing requirements, restrictions on marketing products prior to FDA review, and a prohibition on providing free samples like with traditional tobacco products.

This year we celebrate 25 years since legislation was passed banning smoking on domestic flights in the United States. In the 1960s, the U.S. Surgeon General identified smoking as a cause of increased mortality and by 1986, the U.S. Surgeon General had named secondhand smoke a serious health risk. The National Academy of Sciences, in its report "The Airliner Cabin Environment: Air Quality and Safety," recommended a ban on smoking on all domestic commercial flights. The Association of Flight Attendants can be credited with urging the smoking ban due to the negative health impacts flight attendants suffered working in cramped, closed-off spaces when a third or more passengers smoked in-flight. Congress used this information to include an amendment authored by then-Representative DICK DURBIN (D-IL) in the Federal Aviation Act that made domestic flights of two hours or less smoke free. By 1990, this smoking ban was extended to all domestic flights of six hours or less, and, in 2000, the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act made all flights to and from the United States smoke-free. All of this was done even in the face of the strong tobacco industry's opposition because of the undeniable health impacts of cigarettes and cigarette smoke. Many flyers do not remember a time without "No Smoking" signs located throughout a commercial airplane.

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued its NPRM to prohibit the use of e-cigarettes on U.S. airplanes. Under current FAA policy, battery-powered electronic cigarettes, vaporizers, vape pens, atomizers, and electronic nicotine systems are prohibited in checked baggage, and the FAA recommends that such devices only be carried in the aircraft cabins because of safety issues. It is up to individual airlines to ban their use. Some airlines have already taken the initiative to institute a ban on the use of electronic cigarettes, but legislation is necessary to make this update applicable to all airlines, and permanent.

The current smoking ban applies to the smoking of tobacco products on all scheduled passenger flights and on scheduled passenger flight segments on foreign air carriers in the U.S. and between the U.S. and foreign countries, unless a waiver is granted based on bilateral negotiations. The Banning the Use of Electronic Cigarettes on Airplanes Act of 2015 will amend the statutory definition of smoking located in 49 U.S.C. 41706 to include the use of electronic cigarettes, defined as "a device that delivers nicotine or other substances to a user of the device in the form of a vapor that is inhaled to simulate the experience of smoking."

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to reflect that if I had been present I would have voted aye on roll call number 534, aye on roll call number 535, nay on roll call number 536, aye on roll call number 537, nay on roll call number 538, aye on roll call number 539, aye on roll call number 540, nay on roll call number 541, aye on roll call number 542, aye on roll call number 543, aye on roll call number 544, nay on roll call number 545, aye on roll call number 546, aye on roll call number 547, aye on roll call number 548, and aye on roll call number 549.

URGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT FARM TO SCHOOL

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a vital childhood nutrition program in desperate need of funding. In the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, Congress established mandatory funding of \$5 million annually for a farm to school competitive grant and technical assistance program. This program allows communities to provide local foods in schools. Programs like this boost farm income while also fostering experiential food education for our children. Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities. The proven benefits such as food security, sustainable farming education, as well as long-term healthy lifestyle choices have been invaluable to communities all over the United States. Unfortunately, demand for the program is more than five times higher than available funding, which is why I urge Congress to support the Farm to School Act of 2015.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,152,638,934,294.38. We've added \$7,525,761,885,381.30 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and to reaffirm our commitment to ending domestic violence in this country.

Established 24 years ago, Domestic Violence Awareness Month exists to raise awareness across the country regarding the prevalence of domestic violence and opportunities for victims. Americans of any gender, age, religious group, neighborhood, income level, and racial or ethnic background are at risk.

The statistics are simply staggering. Every minute, nearly 20 people in the United States are physically abused by an intimate partner—amounting to more than 10 million women and men in the United States a year. Horrifically, one in three women will experience an incident of domestic violence, while one in four men have been victims of some form of physical violence by an intimate partner within their lifetime. Daily, more than 20,000 calls are placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide. This epidemic has far-reaching consequences in our communities; domestic violence is the third-leading cause of homelessness among families, and over 10 million children are exposed every year.

A key step in working toward ending domestic violence in this country is to increase awareness, engagement, and education surrounding this issue. To this end, we are fortunate to have the efforts of exemplary organizations, including South Shore Women's Resource Center, The Women's Fund of South-eastern Massachusetts, We Can, and Cape Cod Center for Women, working to provide stability, shelter, and safety for victims of domestic violence throughout my district and the Commonwealth. Similarly, Jane Doe Inc. promotes a simple yet critical message: men are essential partners in the fight to end domestic violence and sexual assault against women. Jane Doe Inc.'s White Ribbon Campaign has proven to be a positive way to send the message that violence against women is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to join me in continuing our efforts by recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. There is much work yet to be done, but, as these tireless Massachusetts organizations have demonstrated, together, we can make a difference.

HONORING NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Collegiate Honors Council as they celebrate their 50th anniversary this year. The National Collegiate Honors

Council represents 800 colleges and universities and is composed of 325,000 students dedicated to achieving educational excellence in diverse subject curriculum areas, in order to achieve professional career goals.

In my district, the Iona College Honors Program attracts the most talented and motivated students from all majors and disciplines. The honors program challenges students to develop their talents, stretch their capabilities, and prepare themselves for postgraduate study and professional careers. In order to mentor and challenge Iona's exceptional students, the honors program provides them individual academic and career counseling, small class sizes, and advanced courses. Iona College honors students go on to achieve prominence in a diverse range of professional fields including law, advertising, banking, education, and law enforcement. Grounded in an interdisciplinary rigorous curriculum marked by an accelerated course of study, students in the Honors Program embody the mission of Iona College, the Christian Brothers, and Catholic higher education.

The National Collegiate Honors Program, after decades of growth and experience, continually prepares our students for successful professional careers. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the program's contributions to our nation's educational and professional communities for the last 50 years.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AGING & IN-HOME SERVICES OF NORTHEAST INDIANA, INC.

HON. MARLIN A. STUTZMAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the 40th anniversary and celebrate the accomplishments of Aging & In-Home Services of Northeast Indiana, Inc. AIHS is a private, non-for-profit social service organization serving seniors and persons with disabilities of all ages since 1975. It is the Area III Agency on Aging as designated by the U.S. Administration on Community Living and the State of Indiana. As such, it is the primary resource for older adults, persons with disabilities, and their caregivers, and a funding source of services including support for the Councils on Aging in their nine-county service area: Allen, Adams, DeKalb, Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wells, and Whitley.

The organization works tirelessly to strengthen local and statewide systems for advocacy and protection of older adults, and other at-risk vulnerable populations. In 2014 AIHS touched the lives of more than 57,000 individuals through its continuum of programs to support safe and independent living at home. All services are provided regardless of race, age, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin or ancestry.

In the past year, the agency has received national recognition for strategic leadership and initiatives in bridging the gap between traditional Older Americans Act programs and the new healthcare model of service provision and payment sources, including:

Administration on Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services,

invitation to prestigious “thought leaders” roundtable.

Hartford Foundation invitation to multidisciplinary “Change AGent” conference of geriatric specialists from across the United States.

Co-presenters with National Institute on Health and ACL at National Association of Area Agencies on Aging conference on Recruiting Older Adults into Research.

Community-based Care Transitions Program, funded by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, achieved milestone of assisting 10,000 patients in reducing hospital readmission in 11 hospitals across 32 counties.

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) “Standards for Long-Term Services and Support and Medical Care” Learning Collaborative, selected as 1 of only 10 organizations nationwide.

Rosalynn Carter Institute on Caregiving National Summit, invited to present showcasing achievements of evidence-based chronic disease telephonic support featuring staff, local caregiver and their care recipient.

The organization’s 40th Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2015, at the Parkview Mirro Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Joan Lunden, a cancer survivor, journalist, television host, and renowned caregiver will be the featured speaker. I ask that my colleagues join me today in celebrating this organization’s service to the most vulnerable of our citizens in northeast Indiana, and extend our best wishes for their future.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEVEN D.
CHAN, D.D.S.

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Steven D. Chan on his upcoming installation as President of the American College of Dentists. I am honored to recognize Dr. Chan’s distinguished career and contributions to the City of Fremont.

Dr. Chan is a third-generation Californian, born and raised in Los Angeles. After receiving his undergraduate degree from UCLA, he earned his dental degree from Georgetown University and completed his residency at Martin Luther King/Los Angeles County Hospital. Dr. Chan has had a practice in pediatric dentistry in Fremont for over 30 years. Dr. Chan’s professional honors include Fellowships in the Academy of Dentistry International, American Academy of Pediatric Dentists, and the International College of Dentists.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Dr. Chan is also a dedicated leader in the City of Fremont. His leadership in the community includes serving as Chair of Ohlone Community College’s Oversight Committee and as Commissioner of the City of Fremont Library Commission. He has been honored as the Citizens for a Better Community’s Citizen of the Year, the Asian Business Alliance Business Owner of the Year, and the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Business Leader of the Year.

Dr. Chan’s exceptional leadership will be well-matched for his new role as the President

of the American College of Dentists. He will be the first Asian American to lead this highly respected organization. I know his wife, Sue, and their two sons are very proud of Dr. Chan’s achievement. On behalf of his wonderful family, I want to congratulate Dr. Chan on this tremendous honor.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the American Sokol Organization. As one of the first organized gymnastics and fitness organizations in the United States, I would like to congratulate the American Sokol Organization on this important milestone and applaud them for its continued efforts to provide fitness, educational, and cultural programs to their communities. The American Sokol Organization will celebrate this anniversary on November 14, 2015 at the Women’s Athletic Club of Chicago, and as a Co-Chair of the Czech Caucus, I am pleased to see them mark such an important date.

The anniversary celebration taking place in Chicago will feature two important guests. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Petr Gandalovic, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States, and Kristyna Pellouchoud Driehaus, KMD Foundation, American Friends of the Czech Republic and Chicago Czech Center for taking part in this magnificent celebration as Honorary Co-Chairs.

On March 19, 2015, I attended a wreath laying ceremony marking the 25th Anniversary of Vaclav Havel’s speech to a joint session of Congress and dedicating his bust’s new and permanent location in Freedom Foyer. This event was attended by leaders of Congress, and Czech Ambassador to the United States, Petr Gandalovic.

The first American Sokol unit was founded by Czech and Slovak immigrants, Karel Prochazka, Jaroslav Vostrovsky, and E.B. Erben, in Saint Louis, Missouri in 1865. At that time, large numbers of immigrants were flocking to the United States and these founders created community centers for their children to learn and engage in fitness activities—these centers were the first American Sokols.

During the first 50 years of the organization, many American Sokols were formed throughout the United States, and all of these units were incorporated into the American Sokol Organization on January 1, 1917. Today, well into its second century in service, American Sokol remains an organization dedicated to the physical, mental, and cultural enrichment of its members. American Sokol has been shaping the lives of Olympians, diplomats, artists, athletes, and most importantly, the families in the communities in which we serve.

Sokol is the Czechoslovak word for falcon, and it is an appropriate symbol since the falcon is a bird that has great love for freedom, as well as strength, courage and agility. The Sokol philosophy strives for physical fitness for their members, believing that to maintain a

free nation, its people must be physically and morally strong.

American Sokol members represent a wide age range. Members range from preschool children to retired adults. This diversity allows older members to pass on the benefit of their wisdom and experience to the young people in a personal way. In combining Czechoslovak culture, the American heritage, and American Sokol ideals, this organization has contributed greatly to the welfare of the United States. Many American Sokol members have served their country with distinction, in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam conflict, and beyond.

I am proud to join with American Sokol members in the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, which I am honored to represent, and members of American Sokol Organization in the City of Chicago and all over the United States, as they celebrate their 150 years of excellence, achievement, and contributions to the greatness of the United States.

H.R. 597 “REAUTHORIZING OF EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES”

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise to speak on H.R. 597, which reauthorizes the Export-Import Bank for four years.

It is unfortunate that it has taken this body so long to get to this point and it was inexcusable that the House Republican leadership allowed the Ex-Im Bank authorization to expire on June 30, 2015 before.

That intransigence made it necessary for a bipartisan majority of this House to resort to a discharge petition as the vehicle to bring this legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, the Ex-Im Bank enables U.S. companies, large and small, to turn export opportunities into real sales that help to maintain and create U.S. jobs and contribute to a stronger national economy.

For more than 80 years the Ex-Im Bank has helped Texas businesses generate over \$29 billion in exports, \$4.3 billion of which originated from businesses in the 18th Congressional District of Texas.

In May of this year I hosted Export-Import Bank President Fred. P. Hochberg for a historic tour of vital and thriving small businesses in the 18th Congressional District.

We toured Frenchy’s Sausage Manufacturing which is a company that currently services over 200 businesses.

Frenchy’s Sausage recently completed an expansion of plant facilities to accommodate the tremendous growth the company has experienced.

We also toured Tejas Tubular, a company that built and opened their casing facility in 2005 to process larger diameter API casings and, which in 2011 opened the ERW tubing plant in Stephenville, Texas, and has processed more than 14 million joints of tubing and casing.

Mr. Speaker, when operating on a level playing field, American exporters can compete against anyone.

The Ex-Im Bank partners with American exporters, such as Tejas Tubular and Frenchy's Sausage Manufacturing in Houston, so they can close more deals abroad and support more middle class jobs here at home.

The Ex-Im Bank is an independent federal agency that supports and maintains U.S. jobs by filling gaps in private export financing at no cost to American taxpayers.

The Ex-Im Bank provides a variety of financing mechanisms, including working capital guarantees and export credit insurance, to promote the sale of U.S. goods and services abroad, 90 percent of which directly serve American small businesses.

"In fiscal year 2014, the Ex-Im Bank approved \$20.5 billion in total authorizations. These authorizations supported an estimated \$27.5 billion in U.S. export sales, as well as approximately 164,000 American jobs in communities across the country.

Recently Diversitybusiness.com announced the selection of Ex-Im Bank as one of the top agencies providing opportunities for small and minority businesses to expand export business operations.

Since 2009, the Ex-Im Bank has authorized more financing to support the growth of minority- and women-owned businesses than it did over the previous sixteen years combined.

In FY 2014, the Ex-Im Bank financed U.S. exports from minority- and women-owned businesses valued at more than \$2 billion.

Mr. Speaker, the Ex-Im is dedicated to pursuing equality of opportunity and supporting economic growth and jobs here in Houston and across America.

I strongly support H.R. 597, which reauthorizes the vital agency that does so much to help American business create and maintain high-paying jobs for American families.

HONORING DR. ALLEN PAUL
WEAVER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a spiritual leader in the New Rochelle community, Reverend Dr. Paul Allen Weaver, who for 35 years has led the Bethesda Baptist Church of New Rochelle congregation with great distinction and remarkable integrity.

Originally from Orlando, Florida, Reverend Weaver answered the call to join the ministry at age 17. He graduated from Florida Memorial University in 1969 with a B.S. in Religious Education, and graduated with his Masters of Divinity Degree in 1972.

In July 1980, Reverend Weaver came to New Rochelle as Pastor of Bethesda Baptist, and began what has been an incredible multi-decade partnership with the community. During his formative years at Bethesda Baptist, Reverend Weaver helped institute many social programs to address the needs of the neighborhood. He created the Lad's Lunch Ministry, which fed over 100 people for over 25 years. Through the Helping Hand Ministry, the church was able to address the lack of adequate clothing for those less fortunate in the community. And the development of the Family Life

Center as part of the church's 120th anniversary has created a beautiful community facility for thousands to enjoy.

Reverend Weaver's list of accomplishments also extend beyond Bethesda Baptist. He has taught as an adjunct professor at New York Theological Seminary in New York, served as President of the prestigious Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater New York, and was President of the New Rochelle branch of the NAACP.

But Reverend Weaver's greatest joy has always been derived from his family. He married the love of his life, Deacon Nettie J. Weaver, and together they have two sons, Allen and Cyrus-Charles, a daughter-in-law, Ilnanya, and one grandson, Noble Xavier Weaver.

This year, Bethesda Baptist is holding a commemorative luncheon in Reverend Weaver's honor celebrating his 35 years as pastor. Congratulations to Reverend Weaver on this great honor.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 597, THE RE-
FORM EXPORTS AND EXPAND
THE AMERICAN ECONOMY ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 597, legislation to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, our nation's official export credit agency.

The Export-Import Bank, created 80 years ago during the depths of the Great Depression, has been authorized 16 times by Congress with overwhelming bipartisan majorities and has broad support from industry and labor for the very simple fact that it works.

Since 2009, the Ex-Im Bank has supported more than 1.3 million jobs and has returned over \$2 billion in deficit-reducing profits to the U.S. Treasury while providing over \$27 billion in export credit last year alone.

My home state of Texas is the number one beneficiary of Ex-Im's support for American business and jobs. Nearly one-in-five companies receiving financing from the Ex-Im Bank call Texas home. Ex-Im supports more than 135,000 jobs in Texas and provides financing to over 1,600 companies, over half of which are small businesses and nearly 10 percent are minority-owned.

The Ex-Im Bank has supported over \$11 billion in export sales for Houston-area companies for the past five years, more than any other region in the country, with \$3.5 billion going to local small businesses. In fact, Harris County is home to the largest number of small businesses that use Ex-Im.

America has already felt the negative impact of Congress's failure to reauthorize Ex-Im and freeze its ability to issue loans for the past four months. In September, General Electric, one of America's most important domestic manufacturers, announced it would move 500 jobs from Texas and other states to France, Hungary, and China because it would receive export credit financing overseas that's no longer available here.

Boeing, one of our nation's largest companies, announced in recent months that it has lost two satellite manufacturing bids to over-

seas competitors because it no longer had access to Ex-Im financing.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when foreign competition is becoming more fierce than ever before, with nations like China using any means necessary to win contracts in overseas markets, Congress must act immediately on this pressing matter. I call on all my colleagues to stand with working families and American businesses and join me by voting to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.

LT. COL. THOMAS PARR—SOLDIER,
SURGEON, AND SCHOLAR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Thomas J. Parr's story should be taught and known. This man reflects what is good and right about our country.

In 1967, Thomas Parr graduated from the United States Military Academy. While studying and training at West Point, he completed Ranger School. This earned him the coveted Ranger Tab. After graduation, he served in two tours to Germany and Vietnam. In Germany, he commanded an Armored Cavalry Troop during the Soviet Union's invasion of Czechoslovakia. In Vietnam, he served as Commander of a Mechanized Infantry Company. The training he endured in Ranger School provided him with the tools to soldier as a combat leader.

He commanded his troop to root out the Viet Cong underground organization. He did this by moving his troop quickly through the search areas in order to barricade villages harboring Viet Cong. This provided the village with protection and ultimately drove out the enemy. For his service and leadership in Vietnam, he earned the Combat Infantryman Badge and three Bronze Stars for Valor and Merit.

After serving time in combat, he soon realized his calling was medicine. Parr stayed enlisted and got his degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas in 1975. He traded his officer's uniform for scrubs and became an Orthopedic Surgeon. He interned and did his residency at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. By the late 80s, he relocated to Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington to become the Assistant Chief of Orthopedics. There, he set up the surgery department and trained physicians. He was among the first Army surgeons to start performing arthroscopic surgery.

He served our country over 20 years and retired as United States Army Medical Corps Colonel. Following his military retirement in 1987, Dr. Parr and his wife, Joannie, came back to Texas—of course. Once back in the Lone Star State, Dr. Parr started a private practice in Sugar Land. And the rest they say is history. His achievements as an orthopedic surgeon have made him well known and well respected. He is recognized nationally as a leader in Orthopedic and Sports Injury Medicine and today, he continues to make remarkable strides in the medical field. He's the first in the nation to perform MAKOpasty—a robotic arm procedure used in knee replacement surgery.

As a staunch defender of America and her values, Dr. Parr has translated his service from the battlefield to the operating room and now into our community. Today, he serves on the Board of Directors for the West Point Society of Greater Houston, helping deserving youth to apply and obtain acceptance into any of our nation's military academies.

With his twenty years of military service and medical expertise, Dr. Parr helps future military cadets work their way through the medical requirements of eligibility.

Despite his busy schedule, Dr. Parr always has time to help those with ties to the military service. Once a Marine, always a Marine.

Dr. Parr's life journey is one of honor, duty, God, country and helping his fellow man. From the United States Military Academy at West Point to the jungles of Vietnam, to the operating rooms of Washington and now in the surgical rooms in Houston, Texas, Dr. Parr has made, and is still making, a difference to our nation. And that's just the way it is.

H.R. 597—TO REAUTHORIZE THE
EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, it's been almost four months since Congress failed to renew the Export-Import Bank's charter—marking the first lapse in the Bank's 81 years of operation. This disservice to American businesses must end.

The Export-Import Bank helps U.S.-made products remain competitive and reach overseas markets, while supporting thousands of middle-class jobs. In my own district during the last eight years, the Ex-Im Bank has supported \$2.2 billion worth of exports and over 14,000 jobs at 22 exporters—including nine small businesses.

The Bank has been reauthorized 16 times by Republican and Democratic Presidents. There is no reason to keep politicizing the Bank's Reauthorization.

I urge immediate passage.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 597, THE EX-
PORT-IMPORT BANK REFORM
AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF
2015

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 597, as amended. It is mystifying to me why there is such vociferous opposition to the Export-Import Bank among a majority of our Republican colleagues. For decades, a solid majority of Republicans have joined with Democrats to support the Bank and its vital role in creating and sustaining jobs for American workers.

But not now. Why? The Export-Import Bank should appeal to all Republicans, as it does to us Democrats.

The Bank supports the American private sector, both exporters and lenders. It steps in

only when needed to level the playing field in international competition. Virtually all of its financing is issued as guarantees and insurance of loans by commercial lenders. It finances only American-made goods and American-provided services. Some 90 percent of its financing is for exports by American small businesses, last year some 3,300 firms. The result last year was 164,000 jobs for American workers, 6,500 in New York. What could be more business-friendly?

The Bank should appeal to fiscal conservatives as well. It is operated on a business-like basis. It charges fees, premiums and interest, at full market rates. Those receipts fully cover all the Bank's expenses. It even generates a surplus that goes to the U.S. Treasury to reduce the federal deficit. Last year, that deficit reduction was \$675 million. What could be more fiscally prudent?

The Bank is a careful lender. Its loss rate is below 2 percent, far lower than any commercial bank. The Bank maintains cash reserves against the risk of loss, currently amounting to \$5 billion. All of those reserves are generated from its user fees, not the taxpayer. Why doesn't that record appeal to Republicans, as it does to Democrats?

The Bank is a fiscally-prudent solution to a real-world problem: foreign competition that has its own financial support. Some 60 foreign governments operate export finance programs. Some, like China's, Japan's, Germany's and even Canada's, are much larger than Ex-Im. Financing is a crucial element of trade competition: a company that can bring customer financing to the table often wins the transaction. When foreign governments back their exporters, American exporters and their workers lose. Ex-Im Bank is our answer.

So I simply cannot understand why a majority of Republicans in this House forced the Bank to close its financing window in July. It can't be due to subsidy, because there isn't any. It can't be due to government competition with the private sector, because the Bank doesn't do that. It can't be for any budgetary reason, because the Bank is self-financing.

For those of us who support Ex-Im Bank and the American firms and workers that the Bank sustains, the only conclusion we can draw is that the excessive campaign against Ex-Im Bank is another example of hard-bitten, intransigent ideology eclipsing the need to embrace a business-friendly, budget-conscious, prudent program for America.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, October marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month—a month to especially recognize and celebrate breast cancer patients, survivors, and advocates. While breast cancer affects individuals and families throughout the year, I especially appreciate the awareness and advocacy efforts that occur this week, especially the Walk for Life and Women's Night Out.

The Walk for Life/Race for Life at Palmetto Health, though rescheduled due to the tragic flooding, is celebrating twenty-five years of

raising funds and awareness for survivors and treatments in the Midlands. In the past twenty-five years, the Walk for Life, led by Chair Janet Snider, has gone from 200 participants in the first year to over 11,000 participants last year, raising over \$800,000.

Women's Night Out at Lexington Medical Center, led by President Mike Biediger, is an inspiring evening at Burkett, Burkett, and Burkett CPAs, where the hospital honors breast cancer patients, survivors, and their families. I know firsthand of the success at Lexington Medical Center, where my son Addison in high school was successfully treated for thyroid cancer determined by Dr. H.W. Bledsoe, Jr., and now himself is an orthopedic surgeon.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

THE "URGENCY OF NOW"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of action—the preference for progress of a status quo that is robbing millions of Americans of opportunity. Every person in this chamber was elected to improve this country and make the lives of our constituents a little bit easier.

Nowhere is it easier to improve the quality of life for Americans than in investing for the long-term in our transportation infrastructure. The American economy depends upon the rapid delivery of goods and services.

But as the White House pointed out in 2014's "Economic Analysis of Transportation Infrastructure Investment," we are failing to support this vital network of roads, bridges, railways and other means of transportation.

Last year, the World Economic Forum ranked the United States' roads 18th in the world; 65% of our major roads are in less than "good" condition; one in four requires significant repair. These inadequacies directly impact us all. Each year, we spend 5.5 billion unnecessary hours stuck in traffic—that's a \$120 billion in extra fuel and unproductive time.

Those figures cost business and industry an extra \$27 billion in freight costs and delays. Money that could have gone to employees, or shareholders, or to investments in the future.

But it isn't just corporations paying the price. It is the quarter of the 33,000 traffic fatalities where road conditions were a factor. It is the 45 percent of Americans who cannot access adequate transit.

Today, the House voted to fund yet another short-term bill—as it should—to keep our surface transportation system moving. At the same time, this House voted to delay implementation of a 6-year-old law that requires "positive train control"—a technology that saves lives and which I want to see rolled out as soon as possible—because they thought it important to provide the rail industry with certainty.

But the simple fact is those two principles are at odds—because we aren't providing any certainty to American industry and American

passengers and American drivers with a three-week transportation funding bill. A trip of a thousand miles may begin with a single step—but you have to begin with a destination and path in mind.

It is time this body recognizes the urgency of our problem. Transportation investments aren't based on a three-week schedule—and federal support shouldn't be either.

Let's finally get something done on transportation, and pass a bill that will fund infrastructure priorities further out than people are booking flights for Thanksgiving.